

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A humane horse headgear comprising one or more portions  
2 encircling and conforming to a horse's head, the one or more portions  
3 constructed of a resilient material for permitting limited movement of one  
4 or more parts of the horse's head.

1 2. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1, wherein the  
2 resilient material in the one or more portions is disposed at one or more  
3 pressure points on the horse's head.

1 3. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of  
2 the one or more portions constructed of the resilient material has a portion  
3 length and the resilient material corresponds to 1% to 100% of the portion  
4 length.

1 4. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1 wherein the  
2 resilient material is an elastic material.

1 5. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1, wherein the one  
2 or more portions encircling and conforming to the horse's head include a  
3 caveson, and/or an integral caveson, and/or a headstall of a bridle and/or a  
4 snaffle piece for use with a bridle.

1     6.     The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1, wherein the one  
2     or more portions encircling and conforming to the horse's head include a  
3     headstall for a work halter or a show halter for a horse.

1     7.     The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 1, wherein the one  
2     or more portions constructed of resilient materials is comprised of at least  
3     one layer of resilient material.

1     8.     The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 1, wherein the one  
2     or more portions constructed of a resilient material is constructed of two  
3     layers of resilient material, placed directly on top of each other and affixed  
4     together permanently.

1     9.     The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 1, wherein the one  
2     or more portions constructed of a resilient material is comprised of at least  
3     one layer of a woven elasticized material that conforms to the shape of a  
4     horse's head at points of contact.

1     10.    The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 1, wherein the  
2     humane horse headgear is a curb device for use with a curb bit, the curb  
3     device having a pair of opposed ends for fastening to the curb bit and an  
4     intermediate portion disposed between the pair of opposed ends, the  
5     intermediate portion having either a resilient material therein or having a  
6     contoured portion therein or both.

1 11. The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 1 wherein the  
2 humane horse headgear is a caveson comprising:  
3 a first circular segment having a noseband, and a jaw strap attached to the  
4 noseband with the first circular segment encircling a horse's nose; and  
5 a caveson headstall attached to the first circular segment and encircling a  
6 horse's head and extending behind a horse's ear;  
7 wherein the noseband has a portion constructed of the resilient material,  
8 and wherein the jaw strap and/or the caveson headstall have one or more  
9 portions constructed of the resilient material.

1 12. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 11, the caveson  
2 further comprising a second circular segment encircling the horse's nose  
3 and attached to the first circular segment; wherein the second circular  
4 segment has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 13. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 12, the caveson  
2 further comprising a caveson crown piece connected to the headstall and  
3 disposed on a forehead of the horse in front of a horse's ears, wherein the  
4 caveson crown piece has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 14. The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 1 wherein the  
2 humane horse headgear is a bridle comprising:

3 a) a head stall having the one or more portions encircling and  
4 conforming to the horse's head including;  
5 i.) a crown piece disposed on an area on top of the horse's head,  
6 behind a horse's ears;  
7 ii.) one or more pairs of cheek pieces connected to or extending  
8 from the crown piece, one cheek piece of each pair of the one or more pairs  
9 of cheek pieces disposed on either cheek on opposite sides of a horse's face,  
10 each cheek piece having an end bearing a bit attachment,  
11 iii.) a brow piece connected to the crown piece and to the one or  
12 more pairs of cheek pieces, the brow piece disposed in front of a horse's  
13 ears and above a horse's eyes on a horse's brow,  
14 iv.) a throat latch connected to or extending from the one or more  
15 pairs of cheek pieces, the crown piece and the brow piece; the throat latch  
16 disposed under a horse's jaw; and  
17 b.) a bit for resting on a horse's lower jaw on a horse's gums, behind a  
18 horse's teeth; the bit attached to the bit attachment.

1 15. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 14 wherein the  
2 bridle crown piece has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 16. The humane horse headgear, as defined in Claim 14, wherein the  
2 one or more pairs of cheek pieces each has a portion constructed of the  
3 resilient material.

1 17. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 14 wherein the  
2 brow piece and/or throat latch has a portion constructed of the resilient  
3 material.

1 18. The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 14 wherein the  
2 bridle further comprises an integral caveson extending from or connected to  
3 the bridle crown piece.

1 19. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 14, the bridle  
2 further comprising a snaffle piece and a snaffle bit, the snaffle piece having  
3 a portion constructed of a resilient material.

1 20. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 14 wherein the  
2 bridle comprises a second bit, and wherein the one or more pairs of cheek  
3 pieces comprises two pairs of cheek pieces, each cheek piece of the two  
4 pairs of cheek pieces having a portion constructed of the resilient material,  
5 and wherein one pair of the two pairs of cheek pieces is attached to one bit  
6 and wherein the second pair of the two pairs of cheek pieces is attached to  
7 the second bit.

1 21. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 14, wherein the  
2 bridle crown piece has a contoured portion shaped to provide a load-  
3 bearing surface disposed on a poll of a horse.

1 22. The humane headgear as defined in Claim 21, wherein the contoured  
2 portion has a length and wherein the crown piece has a resilient portion  
3 extending from 1% to 100% of the length of the contoured portion.

1 23. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 14,  
2 wherein the bridle crown piece and the one or more pairs of cheek pieces  
3 have a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 24. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1 wherein the  
2 humane horse headgear is an integral caveson for use with a bridle having a  
3 crown piece, the integral caveson comprising a first circular segment  
4 encircling a horse's nose, and a pair of caveson cheek pieces extending  
5 from or connected to the crown piece, one cheek piece of the pair of  
6 caveson cheek pieces disposed on either cheek on opposite sides of a  
7 horse's face, and each cheek piece of the pair of caveson cheek pieces  
8 attached to the first circular segment.

1 25. The humane horse headgear as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the first  
2 circular segment has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 26. The humane horse headgear as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the jaw  
2 strap and/or the pair of caveson cheek pieces have one or more portions  
3 constructed of the resilient material.

1 27. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 24, the caveson  
2 further comprising a second circular segment encircling the horse's nose  
3 and attached to the first circular segment.

1 28. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 27 wherein the  
2 second circular segment has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 29. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1, wherein the  
2 humane horse headgear is a work halter, the work halter comprising a  
3 headstall having the one or more portions encircling and conforming to the  
4 horse's head, headstall including:  
5 a crown piece disposed on an area on top of the horse's head behind a  
6 horse's ears;  
7 a pair cheek pieces connected to or extending from the crown piece, one  
8 cheek piece of each of the pair of cheek pieces disposed on either cheek on  
9 opposite sides of a horse's face;  
10 a throat latch connected to or extending from the crown piece and the pair  
11 of cheek pieces, the throat latch disposed under a horse's jaw;  
12 a noseband extending down the horse's face and above a horse's mouth and  
13 disposed over a horse's nose;  
14 a jaw strap disposed under a horse's jaw; the noseband and the jaw strap  
15 attached to each other and encircling the horse's nose; each cheek piece of  
16 the pair of the cheek pieces attached to the noseband and to the jaw strap;

17 a connector strap connecting the jaw strap to the throat latch, the connector  
18 strap disposed under the horse's jaw.

1 30. The humane horse headgear of Claim 29, wherein the crown piece  
2 has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 31. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 29, wherein the  
2 noseband has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 32. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 29, wherein each  
2 cheek piece of the pair of cheek pieces has a portion constructed of the  
3 resilient material.

1 33. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 29, wherein the  
2 connector strap has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 34. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 29 wherein the jaw  
2 strap and/or the throat latch has a portion constructed of the resilient  
3 material.

1 35. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 29, wherein the  
2 crown piece has a contoured portion shaped to provide a load-bearing  
3 surface disposed on a poll of a horse.



1 36. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 35, wherein the  
2 contoured portion has a length and wherein the resilient portion of the  
3 crown piece extends from 1% to 100% of the length of the contoured  
4 portion.

1 37. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 29, wherein one or  
2 more of the crown piece, the pair of cheek pieces, the throat latch, the jaw  
3 strap, the noseband, and the connector strap has a portion constructed of the  
4 resilient material.

1 38. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 1, wherein the  
2 humane horse headgear is a show halter, the show halter comprising a  
3 headstall having the one or more portions encircling and conforming to the  
4 horse's head including:

5 a crown piece disposed on an area on top of the horse's head behind a  
6 horse's ears;

7 a pair cheek pieces connected to or extending from the halter crown piece,  
8 one of each of the pair of cheek pieces disposed on a cheek on the side of a  
9 horse's face;

10 a throat latch connected to or extending from the halter crown piece and the  
11 pair of cheek pieces; the throat latch disposed under a horse's jaw; and

12 a noseband disposed down the horse's face and above a horse's mouth and  
13 over a horse's nose.

1 39. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 38, wherein the  
2 halter crown piece has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 40. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 38, wherein the  
2 noseband has a portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 41. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 38, wherein each  
2 cheek piece of the pair of cheek pieces has a portion constructed of the  
3 resilient material.

1 42. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 38 wherein the  
2 halter crown piece has a contoured portion shaped to provide a load-  
3 bearing surface disposed on a poll of a horse.

1 43. The humane headgear as defined in Claim 42, wherein the contoured  
2 portion has a length and wherein the resilient portion of the crown piece  
3 extends from 1% to 100% of the length of the contoured portion.

1 44. The humane horse headgear as defined in Claim 40, wherein one or  
2 more of the crown piece, the noseband, or the pair of cheek pieces has a  
3 portion constructed of the resilient material.

1 45. The humane horse headgear as defined in claim 40 wherein the  
2 resilient material is surgical tubing.

1 46. A contoured crown piece for use in a headstall of a bridle, a halter, a  
2 caveson or in the crown piece of a snaffle piece, the contoured crown piece  
3 comprising: a first end, an opposite second end, and an intermediate  
4 portion between the first end and the second end; the intermediate portion  
5 having a contoured portion, the contoured portion having  
6 a width,  
7 a length,  
8 a pair of opposed sides across the width, and  
9 a pair of opposed curved sides across the length; each side of the  
10 pair of opposed curved sides having a first concave portion continuous with  
11 a convex portion continuous with a second concave portion; wherein the  
12 first concave portion of each side of the pair of curved sides is aligned to  
13 form a first narrow portion; wherein the convex portion of each side of the  
14 pair of curved sides is aligned to form a broad portion; wherein the second  
15 concave portion of each side of the pair of curved sides is aligned to form a  
16 second narrow portion; and  
17 wherein one of the pair of opposed sides across the width is attached to, or  
18 extends from the first end and the other of the pair of opposed sides across  
19 the width is attached to, or extends from the second end.

1 47. The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 46, wherein, the  
2 length of the contoured portion of the crown piece is sufficient to fit around  
3 and behind a horse's ears in a hollow formed by a horse's skull.

1 48. The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 46, wherein, the  
2 width of the broad portion of the contoured portion of the contoured crown  
3 piece provides a broad load-bearing surface across a horse's poll.

1 49. The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 46, the contoured  
2 portion having a resilient portion constructed of a resilient material and  
3 wherein the resilient portion extends from 1% to 100% of the length of the  
4 contoured portion.

1 50. The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 49, wherein the  
2 resilient material is a woven elastic material.

1 51. The contoured crown piece as defined in Claim 49, wherein the  
2 resilient material is an elastic material.

1 52. A curb device for use with a curb bit, the curb device comprising a  
2 pair of opposed ends adapted for fastenably attaching to the curb bit; an  
3 intermediate portion disposed between the pair of opposed ends; the  
4 intermediate portion constructed to provide lessened strain on a chin of a  
5 horse wearing the curb bit when reins attached to the curb bit are pulled.

1 53. The curb device as defined in claim 52, wherein the intermediate  
2 portion is constructed of a resilient material and where the intermediate  
3 portion has a length and the resilient material corresponds to 1% to 100%  
4 of the length.

1 54. The curb device, as defined in claim 53, where the resilient material  
2 is elastic.

1 55. The curb device, as defined in claim 52, wherein the intermediate  
2 portion has a contoured portion having  
3 a width,  
4 a length,  
5 a pair of opposed sides across the width, and  
6 a pair of opposed curved sides across the length; each side of the  
7 pair of opposed curved sides having a first concave portion continuous with  
8 a convex portion continuous with a second concave portion; wherein the  
9 first concave portion of each side of the pair of curved sides is aligned to  
10 form a first narrow portion; wherein the convex portion of each side of the  
11 pair of curved sides is aligned to form a broad portion; wherein the second  
12 concave portion of each side of the pair of curved sides is aligned to form a  
13 second narrow portion; and  
14 wherein one of the pair of opposed sides across the width is attached to, or  
15 extends from the first end and the other of the pair of opposed sides across  
16 the width is attached to, or extends from the second end.

1 56. The curb device, as defined in claim 55, wherein the intermediate  
2 portion is constructed of a resilient material extending from 1% to 100% of  
3 the length of the contoured portion.